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**DATE:** June 4, 2001

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**Via facsimile only: 703-306-4520**

04 June 2001

Ms. Chris Rodriguez  
United States Patent Office, Art Unit 3763

**RE:** Applic. Serial No.: 08/988,292  
Filed: 10 December 1997

Dear Ms. Rodriguez:

Please find proposed amendments to the two independent claims that are pending in this case. I believe that these proposed amendments clearly distinguish our claims over the newly cited prior art of Lerner, USPN 2,922,425 and Kelletr, USPN 5,261,426.

Sincerely,

Owen Bates  
Reg. No. 40,346